

The experience I had during the months of May 6-August 26 has become an invaluable part of my education. I will be going into my senior year of school as a Mechanical Engineering student. The things I learned through observation and also through getting involved, have given me new perspective on how to study and prepare myself more effectively to enter the workforce. I worked in the Crow/Northern Cheyenne Indian Hospital for the Indian Health Service. The main project that I worked on throughout the summer was to update and complete a database for the hospital equipment. The equipment in the hospital needs to be maintained to ensure proper and safe operation. In order to do this, the facilities department performs preventative maintenance on all of the equipment on a daily, weekly, monthly and semiannual basis. My job was to make sure that each piece of equipment, from air handlers, to boilers, to fire dampers, to the mechanical loading dock, had a preventative maintenance task. Along with this project I was able to perform many of these tasks and also assist in completing daily work orders in the hospital. As I worked along side the equipment operators, I was able to get my hands dirty and learn many skills applicable to my engineering education.



Some of the experience I gained included wiring a number of electrical applications throughout the hospital, repair on a roof, repair of appliances, actuators on an air handler, exhaust fans, and other HVAC equipment. It was a learning experience to participate in diagnosing equipment that failed and analyze the problems that arose from day to day in the operation of the Hospital. Some problems were routine while others required creativity and ingenuity to solve. Taking an active part in this helped me get a feel for how real life engineering is. Very seldom is there a predetermined solution. I was also able to take part in a few hospital emergencies like a water shortage and chiller failure in 100-degree weather. It was interesting to observe the duties of a Facility Engineer and decisions that needed to be made in these types of situations.

I learned valuable skills with those that I worked with. I am very satisfied with those that I had the opportunity to work with. The experience was positive and enjoyable. I am interested in pursuing a career with IHS and would not hesitate to do JRCOSTEP again.



While in Montana I was able to have fun after work and on the weekends. I was able to learn a lot about Native American history and culture- particularly the Crow Tribe. Thank you for the opportunity to work with you and learn so much. I look forward to a possible future with IHS!

Sincerely,

Abe Mitchell, COSTEP Engineer
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